

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council

Meeting of Council 27 October 2022

Questions by Members

Verbal responses to be given at the meeting			
	Question by	To be answered by	Subject
1.	Councillor Ritter	Councillor Ashford, the Executive Member for Community Partnerships	Charities and the cost-of-living crisis
2.	Councillor Essex	Councillor Neame, Executive Member for Housing & Support	Surrey County Council's county-wide strategy on housing, accommodation and homes
3.	Councillor McKenna	Councillor Neame, Executive Member for Housing & Support	Temporary mortgage support and evictions protection
4.	Councillor Chandler	Councillor Archer, Executive Member for Investment & Companies	Temperature control in Council buildings
5.	Councillor Sinden	Councillor Mrs Bramhall, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services	More and reduced cost allotments

Councillor Ritter will ask the **Executive Member for Community Partnerships, Councillor Ashford**, the following question:

Question 1: Charities and the cost-of-living crisis

We are in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis which is hitting our most vulnerable residents hardest.

Local charities such as food banks, Stripey Stork and Community Debt Advice, are experiencing a reduction in donations at the same time as experiencing a rise in referrals, many of which come from this Council's teams.

What is this Council doing to ensure that our local charities can continue to meet the increased demand for their services that will be needed this winter and beyond?

Councillor Essex will ask the **Executive Member for Housing & Support, Councillor Neame**, the following question:

Question 2: Surrey County Council's county-wide strategy on housing, accommodation and homes

Surrey County Council is developing a county-wide strategy for housing, accommodation and homes and is proposing to host a Surrey Housing Summit on December 8th 2022.

What level of involvement does the Council have in the development of this strategy, and preparing this event, and how does this link to the Council's current study linking affordability of housing in the Borough to the number of people who are homeless?

Councillor McKenna will ask the **Executive Member for Housing & Support, Councillor Neame**, the following question:

Question 3: Temporary mortgage support and evictions protection

We know that as a result of the huge damage done by the Government's recent budget fiasco, millions of people are substantially worse off. For many households the increase in mortgage costs will have exceeded the benefits of the energy price cap brought in by the Government.

In our area, where house prices are notably higher than in other regions, the rise in interest rates will lead to an increase in mortgage defaults and repossessions, and potential increases in private rent costs. Will this Council commit to writing to the new Government urging temporary mortgage support measures to avoid repossessions and protection from evictions for those in private rent as during the Covid crisis, and expedite spending on increased new affordable housing provision locally?

Councillor Chandler will ask the **Executive Member for Investment & Companies, Councillor Archer**, the following question:

Question 4: Temperature control in Council buildings

Does the Council have guidelines on the maximum temperature that Council buildings are heated to?

Councillor Sinden will ask the **Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, Councillor Mrs Bramhall**, the following question:

Question 5: More and reduced cost allotments

Thank you for the information you shared after my question to the last Council meeting. It is clear that there are waiting lists across all of Reigate and Banstead's 24 allotment sites, even though prices for having an allotment have gone up a lot in recent years.

However, with the increased cost-of-living this is a good time to provide more allotments, including community allotments, and to reduce prices to make allotments affordable to all. In light of this what plans are there for increasing the number of allotments by opening up new sites in the north, central and south parts of the Borough, and to reduce the price of allotments for those hit hardest by the cost-of-living crisis?